Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Advanced Vehicle Competitions

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) advanced vehicle competitions offer students an unparalleled experience in automotive engineering. Students learn theoretical and hands-on engineering, and skills in public speaking, technical writing, management, business, problem-solving, team building, and leadership. The vehicles built by university engineering students demonstrate the DOE technologies supported in real-world, on-road vehicles.

Accomplishments

◆ At the 1998 FutureCar Challenge, both the University of Wisconsin and Virginia Tech achieved 75 mpge (miles per gallon-equivalent) during the on-road fuel economy event.

◆ At the 1998 Ethanol Challenge, most vehicles achieved Tier 1 emissions and demonstrated cold-start performance and better acceleration than the control vehicle. Challenge vehicles had better fuel economy, on an energy basis, than gasoline counterparts, both on the dynamometer and on the road.

◆ For every dollar spent by DOE, other sponsors contribute four dollars.

Benefits

◆ Vehicles continually demonstrate, well before market readiness, technologies that are possible and viable.

◆ Competitions "build" topflight automotive engineers for the U.S. auto industry.

Future Activities

◆ Sport utility vehicles will be considered for FutureCar 2000.

◆ Expand competition sponsorship to include automotive suppliers.

Partners in Success (1998 Sponsors)

Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
National Science Foundation
Environmental Protection Agency
Natural Resources Canada
Aluminum Association
Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs
Renewable Fuels Association
Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governors' Ethanol Coalition
Illinois Corn Marketing Board
Williams Energy Services Group
National Corn Growers Association
GM Powertrain
and others

Contact

Shelley Launey: (202) 586-1573

1998 FutureCar Winners:
University of Wisconsin and Virginia Tech